

Public Spaces Commission

Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2021

5:30 PM –7:00 PM EST

Commission Objectives: Review the names of public facilities and spaces and the relevant history surrounding the namesake through the lens of whether the namesake participated in the oppression of African Americans, Indigenous Americans, and other communities of color and whether the namesake contributed to the nation's history of systemic racism and similar biases. Recommend any names that should be changed, contextualizes, or added for consideration for future naming of assets.

ATTENDEES: The following were in attendance:

Committee Member Names	Attended 5/3/2021
Alli Jessing	X
Ani Begay Auld	
Dr. Denise Boston	X
Dr. Robert Harris	X
Janssen Evelyn	
Kelly Palich	X
Kori Jones	X
Marcus Nicks	
Moyah Panda	X
Nicole Patterson	
Shawn Gladden	X
Stephanie Wall	X
Towanda Brown	
Wayne Davis	X
Others (still members)? Everlene Cunningham Tara Simpson Tina Ligon	

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order.

Roll Call:

A roll call of the attendees was done. Those who were in attendance can be found in the Attendees section above.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The March and April minutes were approved?

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Our work should be based on the directives listed in the Executive Order; however, based on our research and findings, recommendations can be made at the end. There was a discussion regarding whether Libraries should be included in the research and based on the executive order, libraries should be included.

Criteria Group:

- Criteria subcommittee presented the summary of their meeting
 - Questioning arose regarding including other oppressed groups in the criteria that is not specifically spelled out in the Executive Order (hearing impaired, anti-Semitic, religious discrimination, etc).

Research Group:

- The research committee chair received a list of 3778 County Roads to review (document has been uploaded to the shared Google Drive
 - All research materials will be located in this shared drive for the members to review
- Research Subcommittee presented what was discussed in their meeting
 - Main focus has been the four buildings named after Maryland Governors from Howard County (Howard, Ligon, Warfield and Carroll).

NEXT STEPS:

- Directives before the next Commission Meeting
 - Research subcommittee to create information sheets on the four buildings previously mentioned. Once created, the information sheet will be supplied to Criteria Subcommittee
 - Criteria Subcommittee will review the information sheets provided so that they are able to have a real-world example of how the criteria can be used to recommend a name change.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. It was suggested that the research/identification be done on other surrounding counties that may have completed or been engaged in this exercise. Prince Georges County and Montgomery County were explicitly mentioned. **Assignees:**
Stephanie/Janssen

2. A major decision is needed for the group regarding the scope of the research: will the list be provided by the County Executive's Office or does the research team have to generate a list? **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
3. The web page will be up by the end of the week announcing the meetings. **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
4. A need list was suggested to serve as a place to document repository that need to be addressed. Howard County government uses SharePoint. Research must be done to identify if individuals that do not have an HC email address have access. The other possibility is Google Drive. **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
5. Topics that are to be discussed at the meeting, please provide to Stephanie in advance so the agenda can be published. **Assignees: *All Committee members***

Next Meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Towanda Brown